

To the Urban District Council for the  
Borough of New Romney.

Gentlemen,—At the beginning of the year you were favoured with Dr. Fletcher's report on the sanitary needs and conditions of the Borough.

In accordance with your request I brought up a report in February commenting on Dr. Fletcher's report, and advising that there were three ways in which you might deal with the disposal of sewage, and pointing out to you the urgent necessity of providing a water supply.

I advised you that you might adopt a system of drainage, or a dry earth system, or attempt to deal with the matter by modifying and improving the existing system of cesspools.

I advised you that the first of these courses would be the best, and probably in the end the cheapest, and I pointed out to you what appeared to me very grave difficulties in dealing with the sewage on the third plan.

As a result of the discussion of the matter at your February meeting, I was requested to make a survey and report on some of the more objectionable premises spoken of by me.

I accordingly presented to you a detailed report of my survey of some seventy houses, and called your attention to the condition of two of the public pumps, and at your March meeting I further pointed out some cases needing immediate attention.

I advised the closing of two private wells, and the analysis of the water of the public well in Cannon-street.

Written notices were placed by the Inspector of Nuisances on the two pumps, and the water from the public pump was sent for analysis. The Town Clerk informed you that the water was condemned as being unfit for any domestic purpose.

Printed notices forbidding the use of the water were then attached to the three pumps, but the drinking cup was left attached to the public pump.

In March, two cases of scarlatina occurred in the Borough. I was unable to trace the infection. Both cases were removed to the Hospital, and no spread of the disease took place.

At your meeting in April you decided to sink two tube wells on the camp ground on the Warren, to ascertain whether there was good water to be obtained there.

Mr. Percy Jones drove two tubes, and reported to you that he had taken samples from each at two different depths. These were sent for analysis, and your Clerk submitted the analysis to you.

It was then decided to sink a well at the place where one of the tubes had been sunk.

In May I asked for the formation of a small Committee to visit with me certain of the premises I had reported, and advise the Council in the matter. This was done, and the Committee met on July 26, and reported to you recommending:

I.—That the Council provide a cart and arrange for the emptying of all the cesspools in the Borough at the cost of the Council.

II.—To adopt the Bexley system of emptying the cesspools.

III.—That all open privies be done away with, and pan closets of an approved type be substituted.

IV.—That all cesspools shall be made of a suitable size, watertight, ventilated, and easy of access, the tops being brought to the surface of the ground and covered with flagstones or manhole covers, and airtight.

V.—That where possible the drainage should be grouped, and one large cesspool provided.

VI.—That proper provision should be made for all sink and slop water being conveyed to the cesspools.

A new cart with pump and hose has been provided, and is now at work.

Messrs. Merryweather were consulted as to the feasibility of supplying the town with water from the Warren, and reported, but as I was requested to leave the meeting of Committee when this report was considered, I cannot say how the matter stands, or what has been done.

The health of the town has been excellent during the year. The deaths numbered 24, giving a total of 18.07 per 1,000, but of these 11 took place in the Workhouse and were the deaths of persons not resident in the Borough, leaving a corrected number of 13 residents, giving an annual rate of 9.71 per 1,000. The births numbered 33, giving a birth-rate of 24.8 per 1,000.

There were no deaths from any zymotic disease, and only the two cases of scarlatina mentioned above.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY HICK.

Medical Officer of Health.

31st January, 1903.

Council of New Romney.

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